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FROM AIT KAOHSIUNG BRANCH OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: Southern Taiwan Labor Unions Remain Solidly in Green Camp

1. Summary. Representatives of local labor unions in southern Taiwans Pingtung, Kaohsiung, and Tainan Counties said that, despite recent scandals involving senior DPP members, their membership would support DPP candidates in the coming elections. The representatives said that laborers believe that the DPP is more enthusiastic than the KMT in promoting their welfare. The representatives predicted that the DPP would maintain its dominance in these three counties. End Summary.

2. President Wang Hsin-chi, of the Tainan County Labor Union, stated that the countys laborers are more focused on local labor issues than island-wide politics. The union membership hopes that the County Government can find a solution to frequent flooding in the area. He noted that the pan-Blue controlled legislature had blocked funding for flood control projects. Wang stated that Tainan County labor recognizes incumbent Magistrate Su Huan-chis hard work on their behalf. According to Wang, labor will continue to support Magistrate Su. However, Wang pointed out that Sus support among government workers is weak due to their dissatisfaction with his management style. He said that, despite this fact, Su was likely to be reelected, especially in light of the weakness of his opponent.

3. Secretary General Gu Ming-yiaw, of the Kaohsiung County Laborers Union, noted that the recent KRTC scandal and alleged corruption on the part of DPP officials will have an impact on younger voters. However, he predicted that his membership and most older voters will continue to support the DPP. Gu said that attempts to paint the entire DPP as corrupt were unfair.

4. Secretary General Yang Yu-ying, of the Pingtung County Labor Union pointed out that the rank and file were long dissatisfied with neglect by previous KMT administrations. Yang said the workers believe that they have received better treatment from DPP administrations. Yang went on to say that overall sentiment in Pingtung County favors the DPP. He said that he fully expected the DPP to remain firmly in control in Pingtung County.

5. Comment. AIT/K solicited comments from major labor groups in Kaohsiung, Tainan and Pingtung counties. Labor is an insignificant demographic in Chiayi, Taitung and Penghu counties. Solid labor support is particularly important in Tainan and Kaohsiung counties due to heavy industrialization in those areas. End Comment.

Thiele

Keegan